

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5079
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1486

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF, IS
SUBJECT: EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE: ISRAELI VIEWS ON GENERAL COMMISSION
MEETING IN TUNIS

REFS: (A) TUNIS 1110, (B) LONDON 2942, (C) DUBLIN 0387,
(D) EC BRUSSELS 1665, (E) THE HAGUE 0967

1. ITZHAK MINERBI, MFA DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, TOLD US FEBRUARY 28 THAT AT THE RECENT
MEETING IN TUNIS OF THE EUROPE-ARAB GENERAL COMMISSION THE
NINE DID NOT REITERATE SOME OF THE POINTS WHICH ISRAEL WOULD
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HAVE WISHED AND HE, THEREFORE, SEES SOME SLIPPAGE IN THE
EUROPEAN POSITION IN THE DIALOGUE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE
ARABS DID NOT ATTAIN ALL THE GOALS THEY HAD SET;
PARTICULARLY, THEY HAD NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR
DEMAND THAT A PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR POLITICAL CONSULTA-
TION BE ESTABLISHED. CONSEQUENTLY, THE ARABS MAY NOW BE
READY FOR BUSINESSLIKE DISCUSSION OF REALISTIC ECONOMIC

PROJECTS. HE REPEATED AN EARLIER ISRAELI PREDICTION THAT THE ARABS WOULD ACCEPT A DIALOGUE ON ECONOMIC SUBJECTS ONLY WHEN THEY REALIZE THEY CAN EXTRACT NOTHING FURTHER ON THE POLITICAL FRONT.

2. MINERBI SAID THE EUROPEANS HAVE INDICATED THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH ISRAEL BECAUSE IT APPEARS THAT ISRAEL WISHES TO DICTATE THE SUBSTANCE AND THE COURSE OF THE DIALOGUE. HE MAINTAINED THAT THIS WAS NOT ACCURATE AND THAT THE ISRAELI POSITION REMAINS AS FOLLOWS: WHILE DOUBTFUL THAT ANY RESULTS WILL EVER BE ACHIEVED IN THE DIALOGUE, ISRAEL HAS NO OBJECTION TO IT. HOWEVER, THE EUROPEANS AND THE ARABS SHOULD NOT DISCUSS THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT WITHOUT ISRAEL BEING PRESENT; IF THAT BECOMES THE SUBJECT OF THE DIALOGUE, ISRAEL WILL NOT REMAIN SILENT.

3. MINERBI SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. USE A SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS TO THE COMMUNITY (BECAUSE THE EUROPEANS WILL NOT LISTEN TO THIS MESSAGE FROM THE ISRAELIS) THAT THERE IS NO CORRELATION BETWEEN THE POLITICAL POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE EUROPEANS AND THE EXPORT SALES AND PETRO-DOLLAR INVESTMENTS WHICH THEY HOPE TO WIN FROM THE ARABS. FOR EXAMPLE, FRANCE, WITH THE MOST PRO-ARAB POLICY OF ANY EUROPEAN NATION, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN FAVORABLE TERMS ON OIL PURCHASES AND HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN SOLICITING ARAB INVESTMENTS. IT MUST BE STRESSED AGAIN TO THE EUROPEANS THAT THE DIALOGUE MUST NOT HAVE ANY POLITICAL CONTENT AND SHOULD BE

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GO FORWARD ONLY FOR ECONOMIC REASONS. THE COMMUNITY MUST NOT HAVE ANY ILLUSIONS THAT IT WILL GAIN A FAVORABLE POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE ARABS' ECONOMIC STRENGTH BY TAKING PRO-ARAB POSITIONS ON POLITICAL MATTERS.

4.COMMENT: DESPITE MINERBI'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OUR MEETING TO "PREACH TO THE CONVERTED," WE ARE REPORTING HIS COMMENTS SINCE THEY UNDOUBTEDLY REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL GOI REACTION TO THE TUNIS MEETING.
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